

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
DHA-05 EB-08 CU-04 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /133 W
-----089963 141003Z /23R

P R 140935Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7177
INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2310

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA, AG
SUBJ: BILATERALS AT UNGA

REFS: A) STATE 215738(NOTAL), B) ALGIERS 2267(NOTAL)

1. IN EVENT BOUTEFLIKA IS IN NEW YORK AT SAME TIME AS SECRETARY
-- AND WE CONSIDER THIS UNLIKELY GIVEN ABERKANE'S REPORT THAT BOU-
TEFLIKA WILL MISS FIRST TEN TO FIFTEEN DAYS OF SESSION (ALGERS
REFTEL) -- HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE MORE ON HIS MIND THAN
SAHARA AND PERHAPS OTHER AFRICAN CONFLICTS AND MIDDLE EAST, AS
WELL AS STATE OF PLAY ON BOUMEDIENE'S VISIT TO U.S.

2. ALTHOUGH ABERKANE AND MFA'S DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZ-
ATIONS, HADJ ABDELKADER AZOUT (WHO IS LEAVING SHORTLY FOR NEW YORK)
TOLD EMBOFF YESTERDAY THAT GOA EXPECTED AFRICAN AFFAIRS, INCLUDING
HORN, RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, AND SAHARA, TO DOMINATE DISCUSSIONS AT
UN, IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT GOA WILL NOT TAKE LEADING ROLE EX-
CEPT ON SAHARA, AND WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT BOUTEFLIKA WOULD
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DO MUCH TALKING ON NON-SAHARAN ISSUES. IT WOULD BE USEFUL, HOW-
EVER, TO FILL HIM IN ON ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA.

3. INTEREST IN SAHARA WILL DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES AT TIME OF ANY
MEETING WITH SECRETARY. POLISARIO SEEMS TO BE HOLDING ITS OWN MIL-
ITARILY AND MAKING SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL GAINS, PARTICULARLY IN
SPAIN, AND CONTINUATION OF THESE TRENDS MAY INDUCE GOA TO DOWN-

PLAY SAHARA AT UNGA AND IN ANY BILATERALS BOUTEFLIKA MAY HAVE. ON OTHER HAND, GOA'S COMMITMENT TO DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORA MAY BRING IT TO RAISE ISSUE AT UN IN SOME FORM, ESPECIALLY IF, AS ABERKANE AND AZOUT AGREED IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, OUA'S SPECIAL SUMMIT IS PUT OFF INDEFINITELY AS RESULT OF ZAMBIA'S INABILITY TO HOST IT. IN CONTEXT OF BILATERALS, RECENT ALGERIAN MEDIA EFFORT TO RELATE SAHARA TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COULD WELL PROVE TO BE BOUTEFLIKA'S HANDLE ON ISSUE IN EVENT GOA DECIDED TO RAISE IT. CIF RT WERE RAISED, SECRETARY MIGHT WCSH TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY IN LOW KEY MANNER TO EXPRESS U.S. SUPPORT OF UNHCR PRESENCE IN TINDOUF.

4. ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL FRONT, BOUTEFLIKA WOULD FIND LITTLE TO SAY. GOA'S MAIN COMMERCIAL PREOCCUPATION -- LNG CONTRACT APPROVALS -- IS DORMANT PENDING FPC DECISIONS PROMISED BY END OF YEAR, AND WE DOUBT BOUTEFLIKA WOULD MAKE MORE THAN PASSING REFERENCE TO THEM. PROSPECTS FOR NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE MIGHT COME UP, AND WE WOULD WANT TO REITERATE U.S. SUPPORT FOR ITS CONTINUATION.

5. IN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FIELD, GOA HAS NOW APPROVED FINAL TEXT OF ALGERIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL ACCORD, AND WE ARE STUDYING TIME AND PLACE OF SIGNATURE. SECRETARY MAY WISH TO EXPRESS USG'S APPRECIATION OF GOA COOPERATION IN RAPID NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT, FIRST WITH ALGERIA SINCE 1966.

5. IN SHORT, ALGERIAN DIPLOMACY IS QUIESCENT EXCEPT OVER SAHARA,
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AND ALGERIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE RELATIVELY WARM. SUCH BEING THE CASE, SIGNIFICANCE OF VANCE-BOUTEFLIKA MEETING WOULD LIE MORE IN FORM, I.E. IN CONTINUATION OF HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS, THAN IN SUBSTANCE OF SPECIFIC ISSUES IN CONTENTION.

HAYNES

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